

NEWS RELEASE

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SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS*

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For Immediate Release

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WILLIAMSON COUNTY RESIDENTS INDICTED IN FRAUD SCHEME

**Alleged to have billed over \$1.2 million in fake
ads for law enforcement magazines**

Edward E. McNally, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on December 13, 2005, a federal grand jury returned an Indictment against Williamson County residents **JEFFREY BORDERS**, age 41, **MERNA BORDERS**, age 38, and **DONALD BORDERS**, age 21. The Indictment charges each with **CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT MAIL AND WIRE FRAUD**, fifteen counts of **MAIL FRAUD**, and twenty six counts of **WIRE FRAUD**. Each of the counts carries a maximum statutory penalty of up to twenty (20) years imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000, and up to three (3) years' supervised release.

The Indictment alleges that **JEFFREY BORDERS**, **MERNA BORDERS**, and **DONALD BORDERS** devised and participated in a scheme extending from 1996 through August, 2003 in which they conspired to steal money from businesses in what is commonly called an "Ad Scam." The Indictment alleges that the Defendants obtained legitimate law enforcement magazines from around the country in order to locate advertisers in these magazines. The Indictment alleges that the Defendants then sent fraudulent invoices to these businesses claiming payment due for advertisements. The Defendants frequently used such bogus names as "The Enforcement News Journal", the "Public Awareness Journal", and the "Drug Awareness Journal." The Indictment alleges that businesses often paid the invoice amount to the Defendants mistakenly believing the invoices to have originated from the

legitimate magazines in which they had placed advertisements. The Indictment alleges that the Defendants occasionally cut and pasted from legitimate magazines to create dummy advertisements that appeared to have been published in one of the **BORDERS'** non-existent publications – such counterfeit advertisements then being faxed to the victim businesses in support of the fraudulent invoices. The Indictment alleges that the Defendants made extensive use of the mails and of interstate wire communications to advance the scheme in which they attempted to steal more than 1.2 million dollars from more than 3,385 victims. The Indictment alleges that the Defendants succeeded in stealing more than \$305,000.00 from approximately 989 victims. **JEFFREY BORDERS, MERNA BORDERS, and DONALD BORDERS** *are presumed innocent of the charges until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.*

The Indictment follows an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in cooperation with the Herrin Police Department. The prosecution of the case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Kevin F. Burke.